

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

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R 281030Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8225
USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 10587
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, BTRA, BE, XG
SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS VISIT TO BRUSSELS

REF: STATE 251233 (NOTAL)

1. COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS GROUP, HEADED BY ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BREVARD CRIHFIELD, SPENT WEEK OF OCTOBER 18 IN BRUSSELS TO EXAMINE ROLE OF STATE GOVERNMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. THE VISIT ENDED WITH SEMINAR ON OCTOBER 25 WHICH 21 OFFICERS FROM STATE DEVELOPMENT OFFICES AND PORT AUTHROITIES ATTENDED.

2. PRIOR TO END OF YEAR, COUNCIL PLANS TO PUBLISH REPORT ON RESULTS OF ITS INVESTIGATION OF STATE AND PORT AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES IN FIELD OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SEMINAR REVIEWED MANY PRACTICAL PROBLEMS FACING STATE OFFICIALS OVERSEAS. THESE OFFICIALS FURTHERMORE HAD USEFUL EXCHANGE WITH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS MERRITT FREEMAN AND CARMON STILES, IN ADDITION TO COMMERCIAL ATTACHES FROM EMBASSIES BRUSSELS, PARIS AND THE HAGUE. STATE OFFICIALS WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY LATEST PROVISIONS OF NEW U.S. TAX LAW WHICH THEY BELIEVE WILL RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN OVERSEAS OPERATIONS COSTS OF THEIR OFFICES. THEY URGED COUNCIL TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN MODIFICATION OF THE NEW LAW. HOWEVER, COUNCIL OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT,
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AS ORGANIZATION, IT WAS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM A

LOBBYING ROLE. STATE OFFICERS STAUNCHLY DEFENDED THEIR
ROLE IN PERSONALIZED TRADE PROMOTION AND URGED CONTINUED
CLOSE COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN AND MIDDLE EAST EMBASSIES, INCLUDING
EXCHANGE OF TRADE OPPORTUNITY LEADS NOW OBTAINED FROM POSTS IN
WESTERN EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST THROUGH
EMBASSY BRUSSELS. FIRESTONE

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